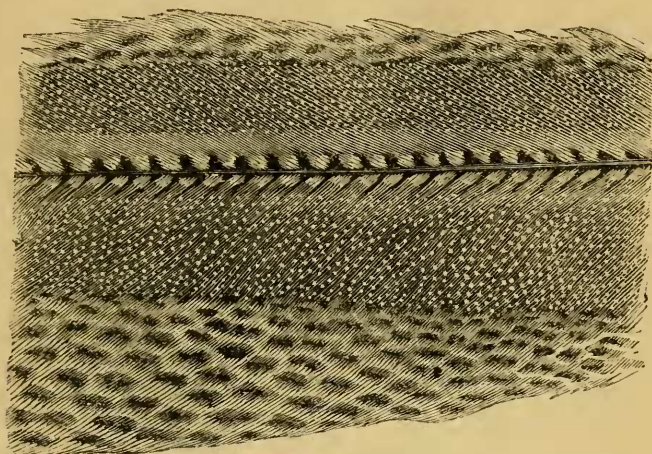


MISCELLANEOUS.

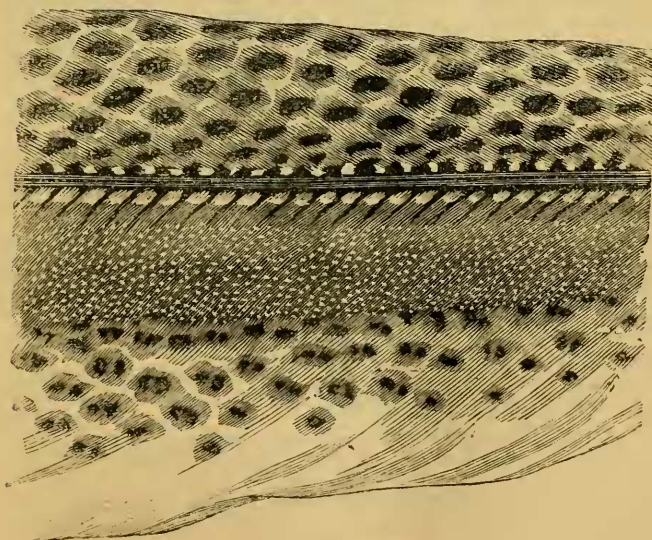
On a new Species of Argus Pheasant.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,—A letter of mine appeared in the 'Field' newspaper of April 8th ult., the purport of which will, I think, be of interest to your readers: it relates to a feather of an unknown bird, which I found amongst some loose feathers of *Argus giganteus*, to the



Argus (?) bipunctatus.



Argus giganteus.

primaries of which it bears sufficient resemblance to make it highly probable that the bird itself is a member of that superb genus. This interesting feather is, in all probability, a primary from the right wing; and the chief points in which it differs from those of the known species are as follows:—

An elongated space of chocolate-colour, dotted with white, ornaments the narrow as well as the broad web of the feather. The tooth-like markings on the narrow web, close to the shaft, are very boldly defined, the light spaces being of a pale ochre-yellow colour: these markings are separated from the chocolate patch on this web by a narrow strip of pale yellowish brown. The dark spots outside of the chocolate spaces are similar on both webs; and there is no plain space bordering the inner web, the ground-colour of which is darker and more reddish than in the known species. Besides the above-mentioned differences, this feather is much smaller than the corresponding ones of *giganteus*, having the shaft much more slender and of a blackish colour, instead of the beautiful blue of that species. The shaft has the remarkable peculiarity of being extremely narrow on its upper side, so that a section of it would appear almost triangular. The length of the specimen is 9 inches; but it has been injured, a portion having been broken off both ends; if perfect, it would probably measure 12 inches.

A few feathers which exist in the museum of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris have been attributed to an unknown *Argus*; and it is quite possible that the feather now under notice may belong to that species.

The drawing on the wood not having been reversed, the impression from it is a representation of a feather from the left wing instead of the right. I may also state that the light spots close to the shaft of the feather of *A. giganteus* have been engraved too white.

In conclusion, I propose the specific name of *bipunctatus* for the bird of whose existence this feather is the indisputable proof, the white dots on both webs distinguishing it at once from the known species.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

London, June 22, 1871.

T. W. WOOD.

P.S. I have forgotten to state that in the recently described bird, *Argus Grayii*, the primaries are almost exactly like those of the old species.

Notes on Podocnemis unifilis. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

A freshwater Tortoise from Guiana was thus described in 1848:—

“*Podocnemis unifilis*, Trosch. n. s. (Schomburgk, Reise in Brit. Guiana, iii. p. 647). ”

“This Tortoise has much affinity to *P. expansa*, Wagl., and is distinguished principally by this, that it has only *one* short beard-